

References to Mr. John Chavis, in the Minutes of the
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

1801.-15 "That in order to attain one important object of the
contributions [the instruction of the blacks.] Mr.

COPY

University of Virg^a.

Augt 8, 1872

My dear Sir,

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I have pondered much upon the subject you desire
to have Dr. McG's thoughts and mine upon, and he and I have
conferred at large as to the pros and cons. The result
is that we would earnestly dissuade you from abandoning
your present position, unless you have good reason to
think you will not be reelected. On that point we are
not competent judges, having too little intercourse with
the outside world to be aware of the currents and eddies,
and the drift of public sentiment, and of the consequent
tendencies and intrigues of public men.

If there is reason to apprehend that you will
not be elected again, which as ardent friends of public
school education, we should deeply deplore, - then we
should rejoice to see you at the head of the Blacksburg
enterprise, which in your hands, if in anybody's, might
yield auspicious results.

If there is no real and grave cause of appre-
hension of your being superseded as Superintendent of
P I, we cannot too strongly impress our sense of the im-
portance of your not relinquishing your post. In Dr.
McGuffey's judgment and in mine, it is a serious mistake
to suppose that the public sc. system is "built up." We
both think that its future is still eminently precarious, and
that your withdrawal, - and especially your voluntary with-
drawal, - would not a little jeopard its speedy if not its
final triumph. Its enemies are now silent, over-awed by
the hopelessness, under existing circumstances, of a suc-
cessful attack, and fearful of the political consequences.
But the mutterings of discontent from many of the former
leaders of opinion, especially in and near the towns, ad-
monish us that there may be yet a great struggle required
before this phase of Bourbonism is effectually exorcised
from our midst.

(In another three years it may be hoped, the great
body of the people will have had such experience of the
boundless beneficence of the system that opposition to it
will be as hopeless as darting straws agst the tempest.
No one, we think, will contribute to this consummation so
powerfully as, with your experience and systematized knowl-
edge, you can, and we deprecate accordingly, your resigna-
tion or your removal.)

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Oct. 25 - 1800 -
"Rev. Mr. Wilson informed me that the General
balances due to him for expenses to the General
provided to the use of Mr. Geo. Chevis to preach the Gospel
and to examine

(John B. Minor 2)

Of the aspect in which the presidency of the
Va. Ag. and Mech. Inste. is to be viewed, in respect of
usefulness, permanence, profit, &c. you are a better judge
than we, but we cannot forbear some very grave doubts
whether the public discontent at the non-fulfilment of
the unreasonable expectations which the people have in-
dulged, may not render that post as uncertain in its tenure
as your present one can possibly be.

To remove you would be very unlike old Virginia,
and I shall be both sorry and surprised to find a serious
effort made towards it. It would argue, I think, a deteri-
oration in the old Dominion, that even after last winter's
experiences, I am not prepared for.

Our affairs here promise much better under the
new Board of Visitors.....

With much regard, I am

Very truly yours,

(Signed) John B. Minor

Rev. W. H. Ruffner

Richmond

Va.

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